



February 2013 Climate Summary for SOUTHEAST TEXAS WFO Houston/ Galveston



An active weather pattern continued from January into February across Southeast Texas. However, this active pattern moved slightly to the north during the latter half of this month. Rainfall did accompany a series of cold fronts, yet the month ended with below normal amounts at all but one of the first and second order climate sites. Figure 1 highlights that most of Southeast Texas received below

Houston/Galveston, TX (HGX): February, 2013 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 3/1/2013 1200 UTC- Created 3/3/13 21:39 UTC

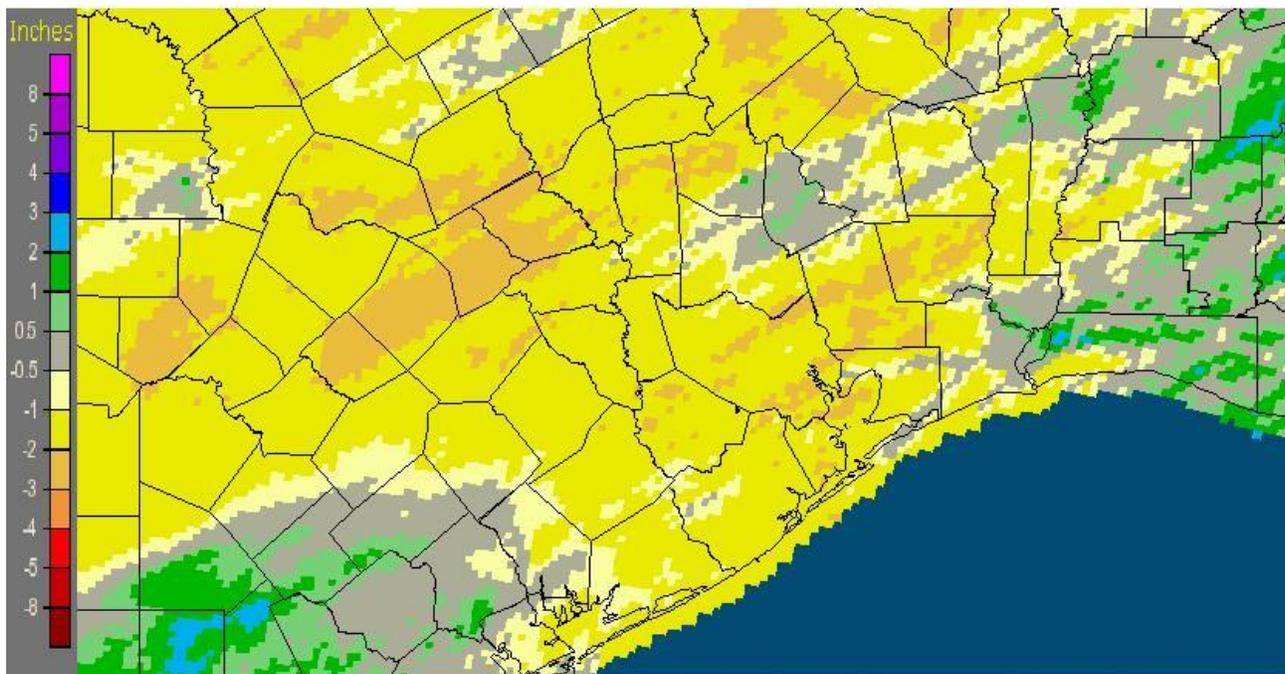


Figure 1: February 2013 departure from normal precipitation in inches
(<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>)

normal rainfall totals for February.

For the second month in a row of 2013 above normal temperatures affected the area. All of the first and second order stations recorded departures between 1 and 4.5 degrees above normal (Figure 2). Taking these into account with the below normal rainfall, abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions have increased across Southeastern Texas. The U.S. Drought Monitor released on February 26th (Figure 3) showed that moderate drought conditions were common along and northwest

of a line from Columbus to Conroe to Livingston. Driest conditions were found across Washington County and the southern half of Grimes County.

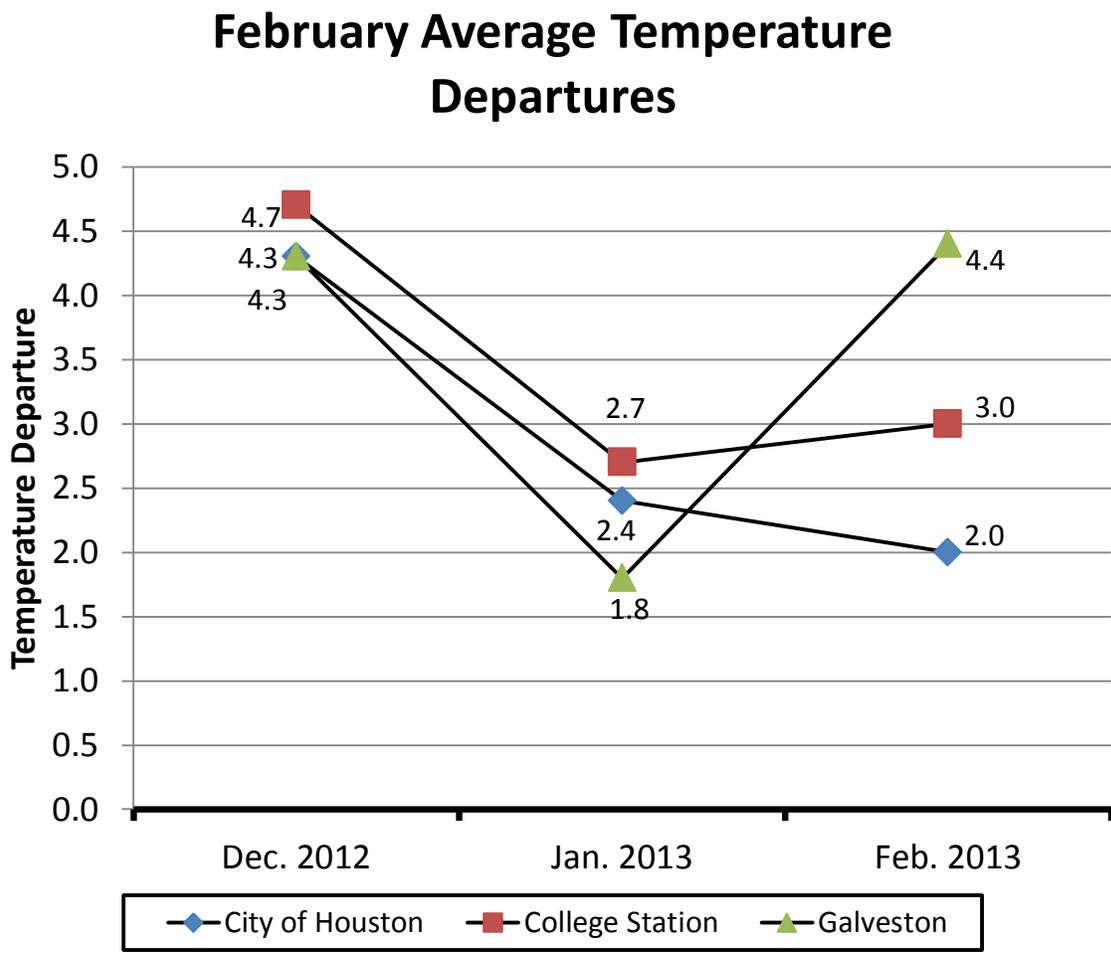


Figure 2: February average temperature departures for the City of Houston, College Station, and the City of Galveston

For the second year in a row, February experienced above normal monthly average temperatures. In contrast to last month where the increase was due in part to warmer than normal average minimum temperatures, this month experienced an increase in both the daily minimum and maximum temperatures over the 30-year average. Figure 4 illustrates February’s high and low temperature departures from normal.

U.S. Drought Monitor

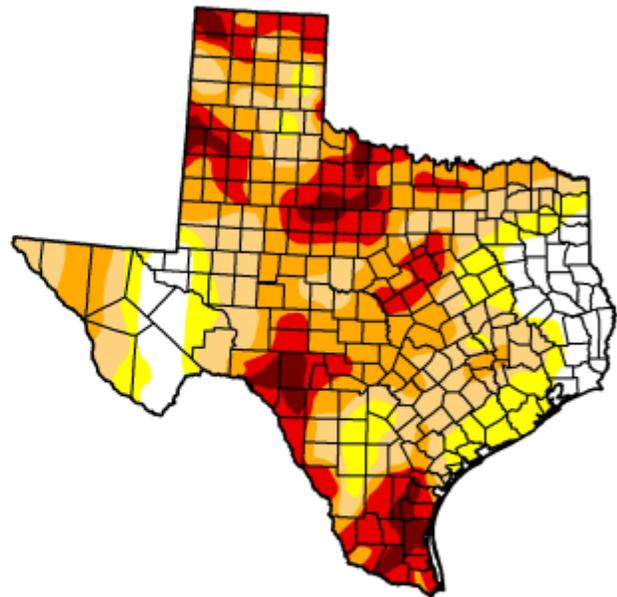
Texas

February 26, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.29	88.71	75.11	49.85	22.02	5.17
Last Week (02/19/2013 map)	12.01	87.99	73.58	49.06	25.80	7.89
3 Months Ago (11/27/2012 map)	6.16	93.84	80.51	54.47	24.50	7.63
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (02/21/2012 map)	6.05	93.95	85.21	67.48	38.68	13.93



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, February 28, 2013
 Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

Figure 3: U.S. Drought Monitor valid February 26, 2013 at 7am EST
 (droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

February High and Low Temperature Departures

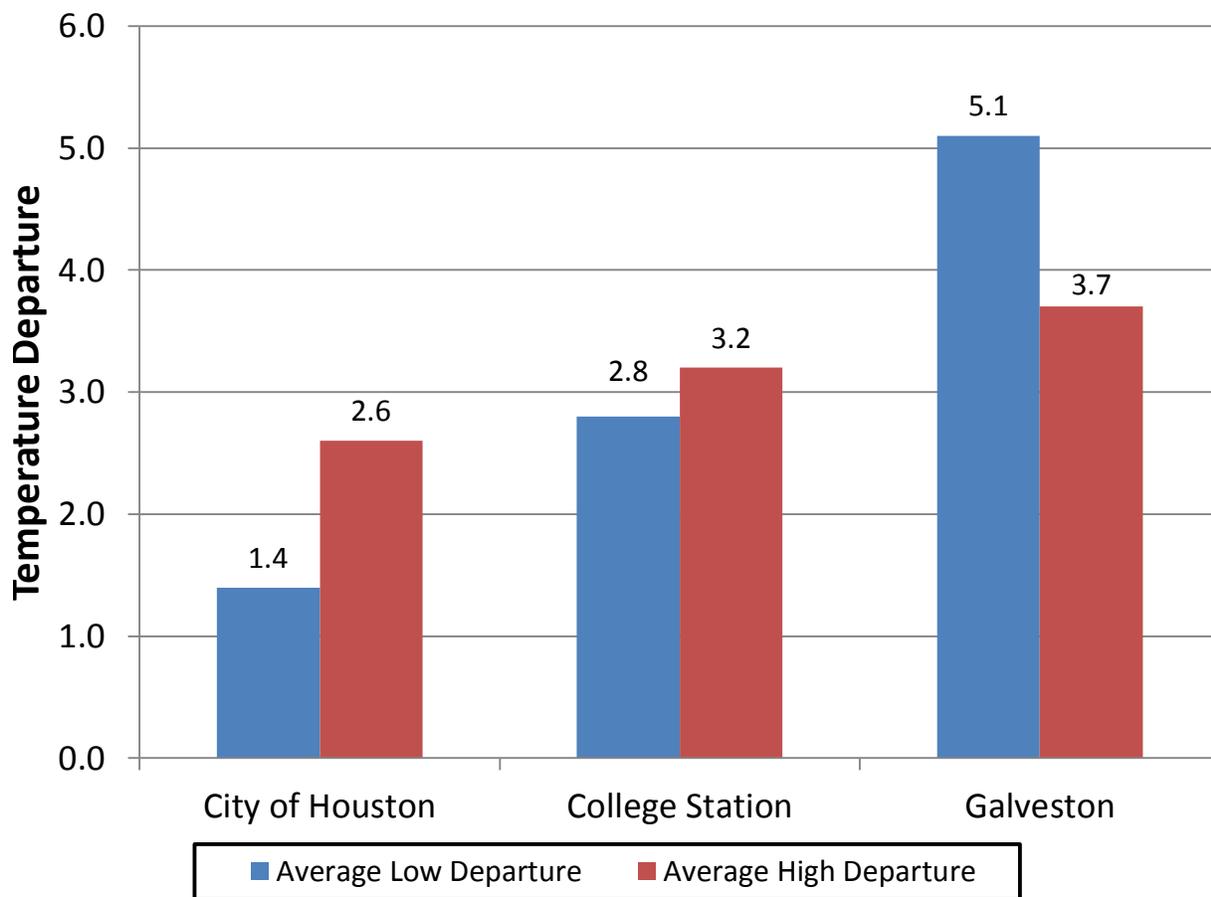


Figure 4: February average high and low temperature departures for the City of Houston, College Station, and the City of Galveston

Site	Avg High	Avg Low	Avg Month	Dep	Rain	Dep
IAH	68.9	47.9	58.4	+2.0	1.32	-1.88
GLS	68.0	56.0	62.0	+4.4	2.24	-0.33
CLL	68.0	47.2	57.6	+3.0	1.10	-1.75
HOU	69.6	51.1	60.4	+3.1	1.63	-1.58
CXO	66.8	42.9	54.8	+1.1	4.47	+1.21
UTS	65.9	45.6	55.8	+1.3	1.22	-1.84
DWH	69.2	46.8	58.0	+2.9	2.42	-0.61
SGR	69.8	48.6	59.2	+3.2	1.32	-1.90
LBX	69.4	47.8	58.6	+1.9	1.31	-1.63
PSX	71.4	51.9	61.6	+4.4	1.64	-0.71
LVJ	68.5	49.5	59.0	+2.2	2.10	-1.08
HGX	68.2	48.7	58.4	+2.3	2.03	-0.88

Table 1: February monthly climate data for the first and second-order climate sites

